Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANY.

ZOOLOGY.

Mimetic Analogy.—At a recent meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Prof. Cope described a new genus and species of snake, from the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, which was interesting in several respects. It was called *Nothopsis rugosus*, and was said to be in structural characters near to the family of *Achrochordidæ*, but apparently nearest the genus *Xenodermus* Reinhdt., all which forms are natives of the East Indian Archipelago.

The description indicated how closely this serpent resembled in coloration the young examples of *Trigonocephalus atrox* from the same country, and the *Trigonocephalus Newidii* of Brazil. This is so marked as to constitute a case of mimetic analogy. But few cases of mimicry of the Crotaline venomous snakes are to be observed in South America, the imitations being chiefly of the other venomous group of *Proteroghypha* as represented by *Elaps*.

In this connection was made a reclamation of the discovery of this, perhaps the most extensive example of mimetic analogy known in Zoology. Alfred R. Wallace, in his admirable work "Contributions to the Theory of Natural Selection," London, 1870, gives Dr. Günther as his authority for the facts of the case with regard to the genera *Plicocerus*, *Oxyrrhopus*, *Erythrolamphrus*, etc., and refers to his own previously published account of it in one of the British reviews for 1867. Wallace is quoted by Darwin in his "Descent of Man," to the same effect. The first published account of the case will be found in the "Proceedings of the Acad. Nat. Sci., of Phila.," 1865, p. 190, in a paper by the author. It was repeated and extended in "Origin of Genera," 1868, but had been already pointed out in conversation with Dr. Wallace and probably Dr. Günther also, when in London in 1863, a fact which had probably escaped his memory.

Entomological Items.—The *Lachnosterna fusca*, the Maybeetle, or Dorbug, has appeared unusually early in Freehold, N. J. April 22d, I found numbers of well developed specimens in the streets under the maples, which as yet had their foliage not over an inch long. The insects, however, were very stupid. On the 11th, the cherry blossomed, and on the 9th, the peach. On the 11th, I saw several specimens of the *Pieris rapae*, the new cabbage butterfly. Since then, I regret to say, this fearful pest has appeared in alarming numbers. On the 28th, I saw the first specimen of *Colias Philodice*, the sulphur butterfly. The plow is turning up now (May 10) great quantities of chrysalids of the Carolina Sphinx, the dreaded potato worm.—S. Lockwood, *Freehold, N. J.*

A Strawberry Cut Worm.—Mr. Hooper, of Marblehead, brought us the full-sized larvæ of the Dorbug, *Lachnosterna fusca*, about the middle of June, at which time they were cutting off his strawberry plants to considerable extent.

Correction.—On page 714, Vol. iv of the Naturalist, it is stated that the *Euphonia elegantissima* in the Vassar Cabinet has a bright yellow forehead. This is true only of the female, and the specimen is very likely young. So that the discrepancy exists only in the throat of the male.—James Orton.

Fishes of the Ambyiacu River.—At a recent meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Prof. Cope read a paper on the ichthyology of the Ambyiacu River, a tributary of the Amazon, in Eastern Equador. The results of the investigation were summed up as follows. The fishes in the collection examined were referred to nine families, fifty-one genera, and seventy-five species, distributed as follows:

	Genera.	Species.		Genera.	Species.
Tetraodontidæ,	1	1	Erythrinidæ,	2	2
Chromididæ,	7	15	Characinidæ,	21	29
Clupeidæ,	1	1	Siluridæ,	15	24
Osteoglossidæ,	1	1	Symbranchidæ,	1	1
Sternopygidæ,	2	3			

Forty-seven of the above species, and nine of the genera are new to Science, and are referable to the following families:

	Genera.	Species.		Genera.	Species.
Chromididæ,	0	9	Characinidæ,	3	16
Erythrinidæ,	0	1	Siluridæ,	6	20

The general character of this list is that of any other part of the Amazon basin, presenting local peculiarities in peculiar species and in genera not found in the Lower Amazon. Such genera among Characinidæ are *Triportheus*, *Megalobrycon*, *Aphyocharax*, *Iguanodectes* and *Stethaprion;* among Siluridæ, *Dianema*, *Brochis*, *Zathorax*, *Physopyxis*, *Otocinclus* and *Pariolius*. A genus (*Characidium*) previously only known by one small species from a Brazilian coast stream, has its range greatly extended by the discovery of a species in the Ambyiacu.

GEOLOGY.

Aurora Island.—With reference to the alleged disappearance of Aurora Island, one of the New Hebrides group, to which we alluded some weeks since on the authority of a paper read before the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, a correspondent of the "Shipping and Mercantile Gazette" affirms that the whole story is a fable. The original statement rested on a notice by Captain Plock, of the French ship *Adolphe*, bound from Iquique to London, that he passed over the position of the Iles de l' Aurore, as marked on his French chart of the South Atlantic, and saw nothing of them, from which he concluded that they had disappeared It appears, however, that the Iles de l'Aurore (Aurora Islands) never existed. They were formerly placed between lat. 52° 38′ and 53° 15′ S., and between long. 47° 43′ and 47° 57′ W., of Greenwich. The first reporters of the islands probably saw icebergs in the given locality, and mistook their character. Aurora Island, in the New Hebrides group, has been confounded with the Aurora Island in the Paumotu, Tuamotu, or Low Archipelago. Aurora, Makatea, or Metia Island, lat. 15° 50′ S., long. 148° 13′ W., one of the Low Archipelago, has not been visited for some time, but its elevation would lead to the inference that it could not disappear suddenly; it is fertile and inhabited. This is the island visited by Wilkes, and on which the unique specimens of mollusca were found. It is upwards of 2,500 miles eastward of the New Hebrides.—*Nature*.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

Supposed Mexican Idol.—We have received from Dr. C. U. Shepard, jr., a stereoscopic view of an idol made of Mexican lava, presented to him by a Mr. Toomer of Charleston, S. C. The image is about three and a half inches high, and is at present deposited in the collection of Prof. Shepard, sr., at Amherst College, Mass. The image was said to have been found a few inches